

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NATO 04077 252151Z
ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 04077

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, NATO, MILI, AWACS
SUBJECT: NATO AEW - INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN NIMROD AND
NATO AWACS

REF: LONDON 8174

1. REFTEL RAISED THE SUBJECT OF INTEROPERABILITY OF NIM-
ROD AND NATO AWACS, SUGGESTING THAT THE UK MAY ARGUE FOR
COMMON FUNDING OF INTEROPERABILITY COSTS, IF NIMROD TURNS
OUT TO COST SUBSTANTIALLY MORE THAN THE UK SHARE OF NATO
AWACS WOULD HAVE BEEN. THE BRITISH MAY WELL ASK FOR FUN-
DING HELP IN THIS MATTER, HOWEVER TO DATE THEY HAVE SAID
THAT THEY WOULD DO ALL THEY CAN TO INSURE INTEROPERABILITY
AND TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON NIMROD TO THE NATO AEW PRO-
GRAMME OFFICE (NAPO) AND THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORI-
TIES. NONETHELESS, WE AGREE THAT THE US SHOULD PRESS THE
UK TO CONTINUE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTEROPER-
ABILITY, AS THE FRG HAS BEEN PRESSING. IN THIS REGARD, IT
MAY BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE US TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CON-
TINUING FRG PRESSURE AND THE HIGH LEVEL VISIBILITY OF THIS
PROBLEM BY PROPOSING THAT NAPO AND UK REPRESENTATIVES MEET
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AT AN EARLY DATE TO AGREE THE SPECIFIC STANDARDS THAT WILL
HAVE TO BE MET TO ENSURE INTEROPERABILITY AND TO AGREE PRE-
LIMINARY GUIDELINES FOR FUNDING INTEROPERABILITY COSTS.
THE US REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CNAD HIGH LEVEL GROUP (HLG)
ON AEW COULD MAKE SUCH A PROPOSAL TO NAPO OR TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE HLG PRIOR TO THE MID-JUNE MEETING OF THE HLG.

2. REFTEL ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE UK COULD PICK UP COSTS FOR INTEROPERABILITY AND HAVE THEM "COUNTED" AS A UK CONTRIBUTION UNDER THE SHORT TERM/LONG TERM NATO INITIATIVES. SINCE THE SHORT TERM INITIATIVES DEAL WITH ANTI-ARMOR, WAR RESERVE MUNITIONS, AND READINESS/REINFORCEMENT DEFICIENCIES, WE DO NOT BELIEVE NIMROD INTEROPERABILITY WOULD FIT INTO THIS CATEGORY. AS FOR THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM, WE BELIEVE THE US SHOULD BE WARY OF ENCOURAGING THE NOTION THAT ANY NATION CAN "COUNT" AGAINST ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE PROGRAM THE NECESSARY COSTS OF MAKING ITS ASSETS COMPATIBLE WITH THOSE OF THE REST OF THE ALLIANCE. BENNETT

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